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82D CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1558

PATRICIA LAURETTA PRAY

UNIV. OF MICH.
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MAY 12, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 5805]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 5805) for the relief of Patricia Lauretta Pray, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant to the minor adopted child of citizens of the United States the status of a nonquota immigrant which is the status normally enjoyed by the alien minor children of United States citizens.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill was born in Germany on June 7, 1951, and has been adopted by Lt. and Mrs. Phillip L. Pray who are United States citizens. Lieutenent and Mrs. Pray have also adopted another child who is eligible for admission into the United States under the Displaced Persons Act. The beneficiary of the bill, however, was born subsequent to June 30, 1950, and therefore does not qualify for admission under the Displaced Persons Act.

Congressman Jack Z. Anderson, the author of the bill, appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and made the following statement in connection with the bill:

STATEMENT OF JACK Z. ANDERSON BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1, HEARINGS OF MARCH 3, 1952

Lt. and Mrs. Phillip L. Pray are now residing in Mannheim, Germany, while Lieutenant Pray is on active duty with the United States Army. During their residence in Germany they have legally adopted two children, Phillip Lawrence Pray II, born November 7, 1949, who is eligible for immigration under provisions of the Displaced Persons Act; and Patricia Lauretta Pray, born June 7, 1951, who, because of her age, does not qualify for immigration under the provisions of the Displaced Persons Act.

Lieutenant Pray's normal date of rotation to the United States is scheduled for October 29, 1952, and he wishes to bring his family with him when he returns. The little girl, Patricia Lauretta Pray, is the only member of the family who would not be admissible to the United States at that time, and I have therefore introduced H. R. 5805 for her relief.

In addition, Congressman Anderson submitted the following documents in support of the bill:

MANNHEIM, GERMANY, *January 3, 1952.*

Hon. J. Z. ANDERSON,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Recently a request was directed to your attention by Mr. Stephen H. Pray, attorney at law, 1103 Bank of America Building, San Jose 13, Calif., concerning a bill for the immigration of our adopted daughter, legally known as Patricia Lauretta Pray, formerly known as Waltraud Maria Behrendt.

In order to bring to your attention the urgency of this matter, the following facts are presented.

Andreas Michael Rollert, born November 7, 1949, entered our home for the purpose of adoption on September 14, 1950. This adoption was consummated on May 30, 1951, and the child presently and legally bears the name Phillip Lawrence Pray II.

This child is eligible for immigration under the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 and copies of the assurances, which have been filed with the DP Commission, are presently in the hands of the Visa Section, United States Consulate, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The child under this law, however, must be in the United States prior to October 31, 1952.

Patricia Lauretta Pray, born June 7, 1951, entered our home September 4, 1951, for the purpose of adoption. This adoption was consummated November 19, 1951, in the Court of Mannheim, Germany.

Due to her date of birth, she would normally have to wait 24 to 48 months to be eligible on the quota for German nationals, and only then could she return with us to the United States although she is legally our child.

Our normal date of rotation to the zone of interior is scheduled for October 29, 1952. This can easily be accelerated sufficiently to accommodate the needs of the first child Phillip, upon application 120 days in advance of normal rotation, in which case application date would be June 29, 1952.

The need is quite obvious upon review of the afore-mentioned facts that the bill for the relief of Patricia Lauretta Pray be completed and available to us prior to June 29, 1952.

We have seen similar bills prepared under the authority of section 4 (a) and section 9 of the Immigration Act of 1924.

We are fully prepared to immediately dispatch to the Committee on the Judiciary any pertinent additional facts required.

We fully trust that every possible action will be taken in our daughter's behalf.

Yours very truly,

Lt. and Mrs. PHILLIP L. PRAY,
Seventieth Ordnance Supply Depot Company.

HEADQUARTERS, MANNHEIM ORDNANCE DEPOT,
UNITED STATES ARMY,
January 24, 1952.

Hon. JACK Z. ANDERSON,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: Lt. Phillip L. Pray has asked me for a letter of reference to aid in the accomplishment of immigration procedure for his adopted daughter, Patricia Pray.

I have known Lieutenant Pray for the past 10 months, during which time he has served under my command in a highly responsible capacity. He is, in my opinion, a young man of the highest moral character; one who assumes his responsibilities in a forthright and level-headed manner and who can always be depended upon to carry out these duties and responsibilities to a satifactory conclusion.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Yours very truly,

G. I. CALVERT,
Lieutenant Colonel, Ordnance Corps,
Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS, HEIDELBERG MILITARY POST,
OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN,
UNITED STATES ARMY,
January 24, 1952.

JACK Z. ANDERSON,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: It is with the utmost confidence I recommend Lieutenant and Mrs. Pray as the adopted parents of the German child mentioned in the enclosed request. I am sure they realize the responsibilities of this adoption and that they will accept these responsibilities cheerfully, earnestly and with a sincere desire to make a good and happy home for this child.

The fact that this is the second German child of their adoption would indicate not only a realization of the responsibilities involved but also a deep and genuine love for children, which in my estimation should be the first requisite in such an undertaking.

I believe the lieutenant and his wife will give this child every advantage within their power and that their efforts will be rewarded by the blessing of a happy and Christian home.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES W. CURRIE,
Chaplain (Captain) United States Army.

CERTIFICATE OF CONSENT ISSUED PURSUANT TO UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER LAW NO. 6 AS AMENDED

HEIDELBERG, GERMANY, *November 9, 1951.*

The Commander in Chief, European Command, consents that the appropriate German courts may assume jurisdiction in the case of Waltraud Marie Behrendt, a minor, to be adopted by First Lt. and Mrs. Phillip L. Pray.

DAMON M. GUNN,
Colonel JAGC, Judge Advocate.

This is a certified true copy.

WALTER J. PETERS,
Captain, Ordnance Corps,
The Adjutant.

ADOPTION OF THE MINOR WALTRAUD MARIA BEHRENDT, BORN ON JUNE 7, 1951, IN HEIDELBERG THROUGH THE HUSBAND AND WIFE LT. PHILLIP LAWRENCE PRAY AND LAURETTA MAY PRAY, NEE TOMPKINS

MANNHEIM, *November 19, 1951.*

According to the paragraph 1745 of the BGB (German Civil Code) exemption of the requirements of the paragraph 1744 of the BGB is granted to the adopters Lt. Phillip Lawrence Pray born on August 28, 1923, in Lake City (United States of America), and his wife Lauretta May Pray, nee Tompkins, born on April 7, 1923, in Oakland (United States of America), who adopt the minor child Waltraud Maria Behrendt, born on June 7, 1951, in Heidelberg, as their own child.

The contract of adoption of the notary public 2 Heidelberg of September 17, 1951 (2 H 1479/51), according to which the married couple Lt. Phillip Lawrence Pray and Lauretta May Pray, nee Tompkins, at present in Mannheim-Feuden-

heim, Ziethenstr. 85, adopt Waltraud Maria Behrendt, born on June 7, 1951, in Heidelberg as their own child, is certified by the Court.

The authorization of the competent American office is submitted.

[Seal: Amtsgericht Mannheim.]

Dr. MUELLER
(Issued signature).

For the correctness of the translation: Berlitz Sprachschulan, The Berlitz School of Languages, Berlitz School.

This is a certified true copy.

WALTER J. PETERS,
Captain, Ordnance Corps,
The Adjutant.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 5805) should be enacted.

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